METRO POLL

Readers say NDP hurt most by #Elbowgate

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Ottawa metro

Your essential daily news | TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2016 | High 29°C/Low 16°C Sunny

Meet the professors of Beyoncé

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LITTLE LEGACY

Runners raising awareness of rare disease that claimed Kate Drury, 8. metroNEWS

Daycare gets desperate as feds hike rent

GARDERIE TUNNEY'S

Head of board fears parents can't handle a spike in costs

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

An Ottawa daycare located in the Statistics Canada building at Tunney's Pasture is asking the federal government to back down on a rent increase that could force the daycare to shut down.

With child-care costs on the rise, the move is putting parents on edge.

"In the next six, seven or eight months, do I have to start paying $300 more a month for the privilege of sending my son to French daycare? That's a difficult financial decision," said Dominique Simoneau-Ritchie, who sends her 16-month-old son, Wyatt, to the Garderie Tunney's Daycare.

The daycare was originally started with a grant from Statistics Canada. In 2014, new policies meant the non-profit began paying the government $82,000 in yearly rent, with an agreement to start paying $150,000 in 2016.

With its rent nearly doubling on July 1, the daycare says it may have to close if the federal government doesn't agree to a rent freeze.

"The only option is to raise fees ... and we don't think parents will be able to afford that," said Olivier Marois, president of the daycare's board of directors.

The bilingual daycare currently has 49 children enrolled and employs 15 full-time and three part-time employees. The majority of parents are public servants, and the daycare also offers subsidized spots for low-income families.

> **We thought maybe they would listen to us.**
> Olivier Marois

Marois said moving the daycare isn't possible because of the financial challenges of re-applying for licensing with a new space.

"We reopened negotiations with (Public Services and Procurement Canada) in November because the Liberal government came into play and they have an agenda of child-care and gender equality. We thought maybe they would listen to us," he said.

In March, the daycare received a blunt letter with a final decision from Public Services Minister Judy Foote. The daycare was granted a final three-month extension "to allow the daycare to transition and provide adequate notice to parents."

Metro reached out to Public Services and Procurement Canada and the Treasury Board over the holiday weekend for comment but did not receive a response.

"I want the government to realize that these institutions are extremely valuable. They're not like other businesses and they should be given a break because they can't operate this way," said Marois.

Simoneau-Ritchie said Garderie Tunney's Daycare is the only francophone option nearby for her son. Spaces for children under 18 months are currently $1,690 per month, and Simoneau-Ritchie said many parents couldn't cope with an increase.

"There are only three daycares in our neighbourhood that will consider taking a child under a year old," she said. "It's extremely important to keep Tunney's open if we want to be able to cater to women who want to go back to work sooner."

metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Newborns of Idomeni: Refugee parents concerned for the future of kids born in camps. **World**

‘Perfect’ cycle track found

HERONGATE

Advocates come across unmarked asphalt strip

Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

There’s never enough money for all the cycling infrastructure advocates want.

So when Kathryn Hunt and her team of volunteers discovered last week that a stretch of asphalt in Herongate was basically an unmarked cycle track, she could hardly believe her luck.

“It’s just perfect,” said Hunt, who has been working with the Healthy Transportation Coalition to improve walking and cycling facilities in the neighbourhood for more than a year.

The asphalt strips are on both sides of busy Heron Road, and are separated from traffic by a curb.

On the south side, a stretch of at least one kilometre, between Baycrest Drive and Walkley Road, is hazard-free.

On the north, about 300 metres between Baycrest and Sandalwood Drive are clear, but a few hydro poles jut into the path between Sandalwood and Walkley.

Hunt said she knew the asphalt strips were there — they were laid decades ago because salty snow banks were killing the grass, she said — but didn’t realize how usable they might be.

Now, her group hopes to turn them into pop-up cycle tracks to show the city and community what’s possible with a little creativity.

“The community can imagine the neighbourhood with new eyes,” said Trevor Haché, spokesman for the Healthy Transportation Coalition. “It will demonstrate that this can be done, and probably fairly quickly if the city were to prioritize it.”

With the city’s blessing, the group plans to paint the pavement bright green for a weekend sometime in July or August to encourage cyclists to give it a spin.

> **The community can imagine the neighbourhood with new eyes.**
> Trevor Haché

Even with a few hydro poles to dodge, it can’t be any more dangerous than riding on the busy roads that surround Herongate’s family-dominated community.

“Heron Road, Walkley Road, Bank Street: they’re death traps,” said Haché.

He said cyclists resort to riding on sidewalks for their own safety, which causes clashes with pedestrians.

At an April meeting, community advocates said paving and plowing the Sandalwood Park path is their main transportation priority for the neighbourhood.

Kathryn Hunt, left, and fellow Herongate community advocates discovered ready-made cycle tracks along Heron Road during a walkability audit. TREVOR HACHÉ / HEALTHY TRANSPORTATION COALITION

But bike lanes on Heron, Walkley and Bank were a close second, and third was better cycling connections to Carleton University, South Keys and downtown.

A 1.6-kilometre stretch of Heron Road between Data Centre Road and Alta Vista Drive is scheduled to get a segregated bike lane before 2019 in the city’s cycling master plan.

FRANCHISING

Fast-fix jewelry on way

The man who brought Blockbuster Video to Canada is now hoping Ottawa will take a shine to same-day jewelry repair.

Gerry Weber is CEO of Fast-Fix Jewelry and Watch Repairs, an American company with more than 150 franchises. He says his latest “invasion of Canada” will start in Ottawa and Toronto this summer.

Weber, who grew up in Toronto, visited the capital a month ago and noticed none of the malls offer jewelry repair while you wait.

Instead, stores send jewelry away for weeks at a time to be repaired or resized off-site.

“The first draw is, it’s a great population centre, and it’s the capital of Canada,” Weber said. “And the second draw is, the malls are nice and we would fit in very nicely with them.”

He said his first Ottawa target is the Rideau Centre.

“The traffic count is there so I think that would be an ideal location,” Weber said.

He predicts Ottawa will have three or four franchises open by the fall, while the Toronto area will get more like 12.

From there, he’ll target Vancouver, Edmonton and Calgary.

Ottawa retail analyst Barry Nabatian said he’s not surprised people like Weber are noticing the capital.

“As a repair shop, they can go anywhere where they think incomes are above-average, which is the case in Ottawa,” Nabatian said.

EMMA JACKSON/METRO

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IN BRIEF

Bluesfest to provide $100,000 for extra transit

Bluesfest will pay $100,000 for extra bus service this year, half of what OC Transpo staff had hoped.

In a memo, OC Transpo general manager John Manconi said a five-year deal has been reached to recover the amount annually "toward the cost of providing increased capacity of OC Transpo service" to the nine-day festival at LeBreton Flats.

Bluesfest will also cover extra transit supervisors or security. It's subject to annual levy increases and is to share the spoils of any transit sponsorships with the city. Ticket holders will ride free to and from the event. EMMA JACKSON/METRO

Roadwork, paving causes overnight ramp closures

The ramps that connect Colonel By Drive and Bronson Avenue south will be closed a few nights this week to accommodate final paving and roadwork.

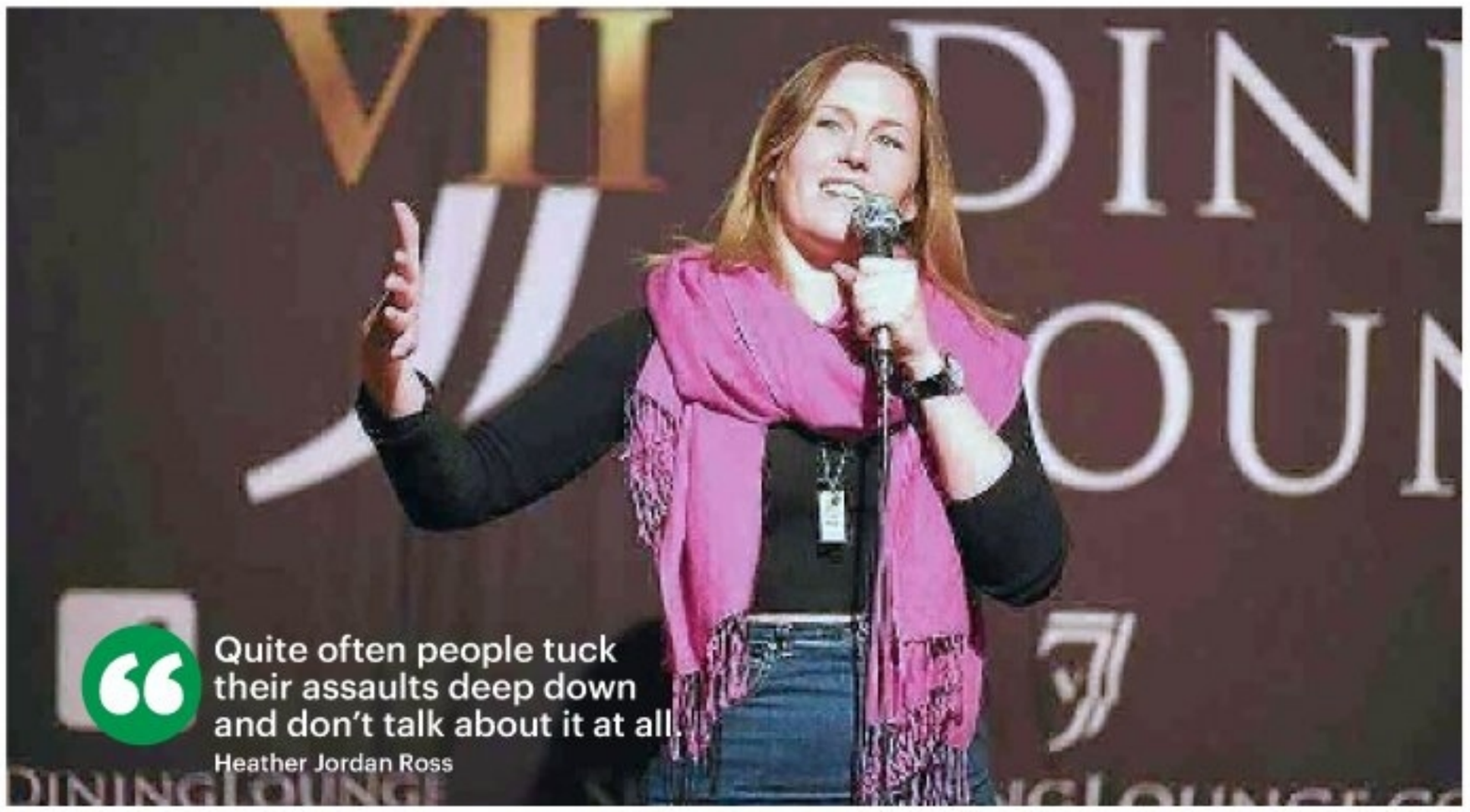
The Colonel By off-ramp to southbound Bronson will be closed from 9 p.m. Tuesday to 5 a.m. Wednesday. The on-ramp and off-ramp from southbound Bronson to Colonel By will be closed overnight Tuesday and Wednesday. METRO

City splash pads open

The majority of the city's splash pads opened May 20.

Eight splash pads will have delayed openings due to repairs, including at Brewer Park in Old Ottawa South, with another eight new sites set to open later this season.

Millennium Park opens June 4, and Little Rock Park, Calzavara Park and Mancini Park will open by the end of June. METRO



Comedian Heather Jordan Ross co-produced Rape is Real and Everywhere after surviving her own sexual assault in 2014 in B.C.
COURTESY JOAN ULLYET

Rape survivors aim to entertain, empower

HUMOUR

Comedy team tackles issue across Canada

Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

Rape is no laughing matter, but two survivors from B.C. are using their sexual assaults as the premise of a comedy show that is stopping in Ottawa on Friday.

But can rape be funny?

Three sold-out shows in Vancouver and a cross-Canada tour might suggest there can be humour in telling rape jokes, if it's done properly.

"You might not agree with all the jokes, but that's just the lay of the land. That's comedy," said Heather Jordan Ross, comedian and co-producer of Rape is Real and Everywhere.

Jordan Ross said she was a victim of a violent sexual assault in 2014 in Burnaby, B.C., but didn't report it to the police until nearly two years later. The police investigated the assault, but decided not to lay charges after her attacker declined to speak with investigators, she said.

"I went on stage that night, I wanted to talk about it. It was not great. Anything that happens to you, you work it out through comedy. Quite often people tuck their assaults deep down and don't talk about it at all," she said.

It was only in January of this year that she and fellow comedian Emma Cooper, who was also a sexual assault victim, decided to create a show about their experiences.

At a time when how sexual assault cases are being treated by police and campus sexual assaults are under more scrutiny, local survivors' groups seem to be on board with the production.

"We support survivors coming forward and using comedy as a platform for healing and empowerment," said Yami Msosa, public education coordinator of the Sexual Assault Support Centre of Ottawa, in an email statement to Metro.

"We believe at SASC that survivors use comedy as a form to cope and as a non-judgmental organization, it is important to respect and support survivors rather than shaming them for their choices."

Toronto-based comedian Meg MacKay will be the headliner of the Ottawa show.

Rape is Real and Everywhere will be held May 27 at The Bronson Centre at 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at rapeisreal.com.

CRIME

Police look into shooting

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Police are investigating an overnight shooting that took place Monday morning in the downtown core at the corner of O'Connor Street and Slater Street.

Police received a 911 call around 3:05 a.m. about a shooting involving two males in their 20s.

Officers found a blood trail wrapping around the buildings and four shell casings nearby.

Police then received a call from the Montfort Hospital and the Ottawa General Hospital advising that two men with minor gunshot wounds had arrived separately at each hospital.

"We've called in our Guns and Gangs unit," said Insp. John Medeiros. "They're trying to figure out what transpired last night and the connection, if any. Sometimes we think there might be a connection given the time but that needs to be determined by way of investigation."

The two men with gunshot wounds are in hospital, but no one else has been arrested. At least one of the men is from Ottawa.

Medeiros said police will be questioning the two men and checking any surveillance footage in the area. Police are also looking for witnesses who may have driven by or were staying in one of the nearby hotels.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Ottawa Police Guns and Gangs Unit at 613-236-1222 ext. 5050.

You can also phone in anonymous tips to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477(TIPS) or by downloading the Ottawa Police app.

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Racing to raise awareness

MITOCHONDRIAL DISEASE

Mother runs marathon to honour her late daughter

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

Julie Drury started running marathons to cope with her daughter's rare form of mitochondrial disease.

But at Ottawa Race Weekend this year, she won't be the only runner thinking of Kate when she crosses the finish line.

A group of 125 racers with Team MitoCanada is participating in the event this weekend to honour Kate, who succumbed to the disease on Nov. 30, 2015. She had recently celebrated her eighth birthday.

> **I don't want her to have died in vain. I think she has a legacy.**
> Julie Drury

The team will sport pink T-shirts — Kate's favourite colour — with her name and the words "fight like a girl" scrawled on the back. It's an expression the family used to describe their daughter's battle with the disease.

"She was particularly stoic and brave and went through amazing things. She fought like a girl," said Julie Drury.

Mitochondrial disease is a genetic disorder without a cure. It affects mitochondria, which are the parts of our cells that convert food and oxygen into energy. When it fails, our cells die.

Kate started to develop what her mother describes as "episodes" — vomiting, intense dehydration, and fever. Her eight short years involved regular visits to the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario and beyond. She was even a patient at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

Eight-year-old Kate Drury, left, died of a rare form of mitochondrial disease on Nov. 30, 2015. **Her mother Julie is participating in the upcoming Ottawa Race Weekend to raise awareness about Kate's condition.** CONTRIBUTED

Still, Kate did not let her disease keep her from doing what she loved.

The bubbly, blond-haired girl struggled to walk, but her gymnastics coach helped her balance on the beams. She couldn't swim, but still jumped into the deep end of the pool where she waited for someone to hoist her out of the water by her bathing suit straps. She struggled to speak, but loved singing a few words of O Canada at school.

From the sidelines at Ottawa Race weekend, she would sit perched in her mother's child carry-on backpack, her long legs dangling down to Julie Drury's knees. Laughing and giggling, she watched her big brother, Jack, as he ran the five-kilometre race.

She wanted to do everything.

"She was an incredible spirit," said Drury, her voice breaking.

"I honestly don't know where she came from because she was just different. Anyone she met, she loved."

Shortly after Kate's death last fall, Julie Drury started training for the Boston Marathon, which she ran in April. It was her seventh marathon. Lacing up her shoes to meet a group of supportive runners during the cold winter mornings helped her get out of bed.

"I think you can really easily drown in grief. Not to say that I haven't a little bit, but it just kind of helped to keep my head above water," she said.

That, and she's still hoping for a cure for mitochondrial disease.

"I don't want her to have died in vain. I think she has a legacy ... I want that to be recognized."

FUNDRAISING

Team MitoCanada is trying to raise $42,200 for the Ottawa Race Weekend this year (because a marathon is 42.2 km).

To donate, Google "Team MitoCanada Scotiabank Charity Challenge."

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TRANSPORTATION

Ontario considers highway signs for 'safe texting' zones

Ontario is considering the idea of putting signs on highways to alert drivers about upcoming areas where they can safely pull over to text or check their emails.

All three parties voted in favour on second reading of a private member's bill from Progressive Conservative Vic Fedeli to create so-called safe texting zones.

Fedeli says signs on highways would inform drivers about 185 existing areas such as commuter parking lots, transit stations and rest stops where they can safely pull off to use their smartphones or tablets.

He got the idea while driving through Pennsylvania and New York, and saw signs in both states promoting safe texting zones, and says it would not require any new infrastructure.

Fedeli says increased fines are not enough to curb distracted driving habits, and believes safe texting zones will save lives and help educate motorists about the dangers of texting behind the wheel.

The Ontario Provincial Police reported in March that distracted driving was the cause of more deaths on provincial highways than any other factor for the third consecutive year, contributing to 69 deaths in 2015.

Fedeli says he's had widespread support from police, insurance companies, the Canadian Automobile Association and the Ontario Safety League for his Safe Texting Zones Act.

$1,000

Although Ontario increased distracted driving penalties to $490 last fall, **a judge may raise the fine to $1,000 and three demerit points upon conviction.**

"It sends a clear message to distracted drivers that there is no longer any excuse to endanger themselves and those they share the road with," said Fedeli.

"Their text can wait until the next texting zone."

Ontario stiffened penalties for distracted driving last fall, with a set fine of $490 that a judge could increase to $1,000, plus three demerit points on conviction.

Safe texting zone signs will be especially important in helping educate younger drivers about the dangers of distracted driving, added Fedeli.

"Texting is so popular with young people who are new drivers as well, and this has surpassed drunk driving (as a cause of accidents) and has become so very, very serious that it needs that extra little nudge, that extra reminder that says: 'It can wait,"' he said.

New Democrat transport critic Wayne Gates told the legislature that it's not just the younger drivers who text.

"Older people, seniors are doing it, and young people are doing it, and it's putting people at risk," said Gates.

Private member's bills rarely become law in Ontario, but Fedeli is confident his will either be passed or be adopted by the Liberal government after members from all sides of the legislature spoke in favour of it.

"It really is a bill that I expect will come into law in Ontario one day," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A British Columbia man is facing charges of fraud under $5,000 for allegedly impersonating a Fort McMurray evacuee and taking advantage of people trying to help, police say. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Man charged over Fort McMurray fraud

CRIME

Assistance given to people thought to be wildfire victims

Police say a British Columbia man is facing charges for allegedly impersonating a Fort McMurray evacuee and taking advantage of people who were trying to help.

The RCMP says it received a complaint from Family and Community Support Services in Claresholm, Alta., about a man and woman suspected of pretending to be among the wildfire evacuees.

Police allege the man travelled to Claresholm and "took advantage" of people who thought they were helping wildfire victims.

They say Darryl Rondeau, 45, of Victoria, B.C., has been charged with fraud under $5,000.

Kieth Carlson, owner of Roy's Place restaurant in Claresholm, said he wasn't surprised when police contacted him about the case. He said he was suspicious not long after a woman came into the restaurant asking for a job. She said she had fled the flames in Fort McMurray with only the clothes on her back.

"I said, 'I'm looking for cooks,' and she claimed she knew how to cook," Carlson said. "I said, 'Well, let's give you a job.'"

But he said when she returned later with her partner, she said she had a health issue, and the man was concerned that the stress she was going through might exacerbate it. She couldn't accept the job.

"When she didn't take the job and had a few excuses about everything, I just went, OK, they're not in that big of a need," Carlson said.

Despite his suspicions, Carlson invited the couple back to the restaurant that evening for a free meal. They ordered steaks, Carlson believes.

Carlson said they asked him to come out of the kitchen to thank him, but he sent word back to their table that he was busy and that it was no big deal.

RCMP allege the couple never actually lived in Fort McMurray and had no ties to Alberta. Police said while they were in Claresholm, townspeople provided them with a place to stay, clothes, meals and bought a pair of work boots.

"Small towns are very quick to provide assistance to those in need, sometimes without even questioning a lot. They trust," said Cpl. Barry Larocque. "Sometimes that trust can be exploited."

The couple appeared in a story in the local newspaper, the Claresholm Local Press. They told the paper they saw their home catch fire and had planned on settling Lethbridge, but stopped in Claresholm and liked the reception they got.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

WEATHER

Fire-hit area misses out on weekend rain

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Edmonton

While much of Alberta was deluged with rain this weekend, the wet weather largely skipped the Fort McMurray area where it is needed most.

Edmonton alone received more than 50 millimetres of rain over the long weekend, but in Fort McMurray the totals were far lower and the fire grew to 522,000 hectares as of Sunday afternoon.

"We have received a minimal amount of rain in Fort McMurray about five millimetres over the last 48 hours," said wildfire information officer Laura Stewart.

She said the lack of rain was disappointing, but the weather did help a little bit over the course of the weekend.

"The temperatures have cooled, winds are calm and the humidity is quite a bit higher, so that is certainly helping with fire behaviour," she said.

She said while rain would be better, the conditions over the last few days at least didn't involve extreme heat and high winds.

DEBIT CARDS

Alta. NDP criticized over transparency

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

The Alberta NDP has been smoky about administration costs to dole out debit cards for Fort McMurray residents, leaving some wondering why they can't get answers.

Since end of day Wednesday, the government's $100-million relief program saw the expenditure of $73.1 million to assist 70,252 people, prompting Fort McMurray resident Frank Bayuk to question what will happen to the remainder and admin costs associated with the program.

The government, however, wouldn't provide figures on how much it has spent on the debit card program, even though it has outlined the associated costs for a contractor to roll it out.

John Archer, Government of Alberta media officer, said the government isn't in a position to tabulate or discuss admin costs as it's focused on delivering necessary services to those affected by the fire.

Bayuk, who is staying in an Edmonton hotel, said he wishes the government was more transparent.

Archer said remaining dollars will stay within government for "other priorities," adding administration costs will be on top of the budgeted $100 million.

Though the government hasn't released costs associated with the debit card program, Wildrose environment critic Todd Loewen said money could have been saved if the NDP relief funds electronically.

Municipal Affairs Minister Danielle Larivee has said the government considered e-transferring money to evacuees, but decided against it as the province wanted to provide flexibility. The Red Cross chose to provide e-transfers, but Larivee said not all people prefer online banking.

JAPAN

Trudeau, Abe to talk partnership

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will sit down with his Japanese counterpart Tuesday to discuss the countries' business ties as well as security co-operation before the Group of Seven summit later this week.

Trudeau's agenda for his meeting with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe includes issues like investment, education and trade, such as the huge 12-country treaty known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

With hope of attracting business investment to Canada, Trudeau will also meet auto-sector executives, including the presidents of three automakers: Honda, Toyota and Subaru.

Trudeau and his wife, Sophie Gregoire Trudeau, will visit the Meiji Shrine and meet the emperor and empress of Japan before the prime minister sits down with Abe.

For his part, Abe is expected to raise a pressing subject for the Japanese: regional security.

Japan is deeply concerned about North Korea's recent nuclear tests and missile launches as well as an ongoing territorial dispute with China in the East China Sea and South China Sea.

Following their meeting in February, Foreign Affairs Minister Stephane Dion and his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida issued a statement reconfirming their commitment to maintaining a rules-based order in international maritime law.

Without naming China, they also said they opposed the use of intimidation, force or unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo in the Asia-Pacific.

Trudeau's Tokyo visit comes ahead of the G7 summit on Thursday and Friday in Ise-Shima. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Officer acquitted in Freddie Gray case

A police officer was acquitted of assault in the arrest of Freddie Gray. WIKIPEDIA.COM

COURT

Young black man suffered injuries in police van

A Baltimore officer was acquitted of assault and other charges Monday in the arrest of Freddie Gray, dealing prosecutors a second straight blow in their bid to hold police accountable for the black man's death from spinal injuries suffered in the back of a police van.

The judge who decided Officer Edward Nero's fate in the non-jury trial concluded Nero played little role in the arrest and wasn't responsible for the failure by police to buckle Gray in during the jolting ride.

Upon hearing the verdict, Nero hugged his attorney and appeared to wipe away a tear.

Nero, who is white, was the second of six officers charged in the racially combustible case to stand trial. The manslaughter case against Officer William Porter ended in a mistrial in December when the jury 592051 deadlocked. Prosecutors plan to retry him at some point.

The next case to go to trial is that of the van driver, who faces the most serious charge of all, second-degree murder. His case is set for June 6.

Grey died a week after his neck was broken during the ride while he was handcuffed and shackled but not belted in. His death triggered rioting, looting and arson in Baltimore, and his name became a rallying cry in the nationwide furor over the deaths of black men in clashes with police.

Nero, 30, waived his right to a jury trial, choosing to argue his case before Circuit Judge Barry Williams.

"The state's theory has been one of recklessness and negligence," the judge said. "There has been no evidence that the defendant intended for a crime to occur."

The assault charge carried up to 10 years in prison. Nero was also found not guilty of reckless endangerment and misconduct.

Nero remains on desk duty and faces a departmental investigation that could result in disciplinary action. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Farah Sheikh Ahmed, from Idlib, Syria, with baby Maram.

Wajdan Shalhob, from Daraa, Syria, with baby Faouaz.

Asmaa, from Damascus, and her baby Jana.

Rojin, from Qamishli, Syria, with her baby Beritan.

ALL PHOTOS THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIGRANT CRISIS

The newborns of Idomeni refugees

The women walked across the Syrian border into Turkey heavily pregnant, crossed the Aegean Sea in perilous journeys that risked their own lives and those of the babies they carried, because they dreamed of their children being born in a better world, in a peaceful, prosperous country in central or northern Europe.

But Balkan and European countries shut their borders earlier this year, leaving pregnant women among 54,000 people stranded in Greece.

Trapped by the closure of the Macedonian border, dozens of women have brought their children into the world in refugee camps in Greece, of which the largest is the sprawling, impromptu camp at Idomeni.

Uday was born on April 13. The entire first month of his life has been spent in the small tent his parents pitched in front of the Idomeni railway station, where his mother, 21-year-old Alia Mohamad, nurses him and struggles to quiet his constant crying.

"I don't know what his future is," said Mohamad, who fled with her husband from Aleppo in Syria and has been in Idomeni since Feb. 28. "What I think is that my child's future is lost."

According to the local hospital in the nearby town of Kilkis, 120 women staying at Idomeni have given birth at the hospital since the start of the year, while one gave birth in the camp itself and was then transferred to the hospital.

Despite pressure from Greek authorities for refugees to leave the sprawling Idomeni camp for organized refugee camps elsewhere, many of the women with very young infants are reluctant to move, fearing there will not be adequate care there for their babies. In Idomeni, volunteers and aid organizations have been delivering milk and other necessities.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Tuesday, May 24, 2016

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
ON THE DOWNSIDES OF FAST FASHION

We routinely drape ourselves in relative cheapness. And it matters what you put against your skin. It matters where and how it was farmed, spun and woven, and how much the farmers and factory workers earned.

The hummingbirds almost look alive. Intricately stitched in blues, hovering near pansies shaded purple and orange. It is a delicate piece of embroidery — a point underlined by the quote above the work, etched into glass that blocks fingers from stroking the threads: "I do this work out of love for my craft. No amount of money could cover the labour involved." — Faustina Sumano Garcia.

Her blouse was, of course, paid for. The Royal Ontario Museum commissioned it for a recent exhibition, ¡Viva México! Clothing & Culture, which wrapped this past weekend. But the point is made: This is not fast-fashion handiwork. The blouse hangs beside blankets, tablecloths and dresses, all fabrics more properly deemed "textile art" in the exhibition literature. It took Garcia, an award-winning artist, "several" months to painstakingly hand embroider her piece in satin thread, we're told. And that makes it the antithesis of the fabrics we are surrounded by today.

On your body now likely hangs something far less fine. Perhaps that makes sense. We're so used to owning a dozen of everything (dresses, pants, shoes) that it would seem wild to spend all that much on each item.

Certainly we aren't going to be forking out whatever the ROM did for a blouse whose maker deemed it literally priceless.

But that also means we routinely drape ourselves in relative cheapness. And it matters what you put against your skin. It matters how a fabric feels, whether it scratches, whether the fibres hold firm. It matters where and how it was farmed, spun and woven, and how much farmers and factory workers earned.

Aside from the ethical implications this brings up, which are many and important, the upshot is often ugly.

How frequently do you wander the aisles of an H&M or Zara and marvel at the fabric? All that is bright, printed and colourful is especially easy to discard for looking cheap. Prints lack depth, detail lacks precision. That leaves me living in monochromes — denim and blacks and greys that better hide their flaws, but which grow exceedingly dull.

It's probably too much to hope for that most people could afford quality. If we could, I'm sure we'd all sleep in silk sheets and never dream of donning polyester over cashmere. But I do wonder what it would be like to get dressed in the morning in fabrics that demands your respect. Respect for the process, for the craftsmanship, even a bit of adoration. Fast-fashion might give the illusion that we're looking good in whatever new top. But do we really? Or do we just look aspirational, and threadbare to boot.

How frequently do you wander the aisles of an H&M or Zara and marvel at the fabric?

Metro POLL
Who lost #Elbowgate?

After last Wednesday's melee in the House of Commons — when Prime Minister Justin Trudeau took the Conservative whip by the arm, elbowed an NDP MP and got into a verbal fight with NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair — all three parties sought to turn the incident to their advantage, and the media jumped all over the story. We asked: who came off looking worst?

61% Mulcair and the NDP. They completely overreacted.
19% The media. They sensationalized and worsened the situation.
17% Justin Trudeau. He acted like an arrogant, entitled lout.
3% The Conservatives. They could have taken the high road, but they didn't.

The media loves these easy stories instead of covering important issues.

Mulcair was unbelievably childish.

The elbowing was clearly accidental. An apology should have sufficed.

Trudeau was STUPID to get up and create this maelstrom.

visit metronews.ca
HAVE YOUR SAY

Why is citizen input at city hall so often a waste of words?

COLLINS' CAPITAL
Steve Collins

Just down the street from all the theatrical outrage and prime ministerial elbow-smashes, the default setting of city hall's business is comparatively respectful and grown-up.

The absence of explicit political parties at the city level might have something to do with the lower temperature.

And perhaps the stakes are smaller. At least some of the time, chit-chat at Laurier Avenue has little effect on events.

Whether kibitzing on the latest NCC project (think LeBreton Flats or the Victims of Communism flap) or asking provincial permission to manage local affairs (photo radar, but not too much photo radar), council frequently finds itself backseat driving.

Last week, two council committees applied their pragmatic, respectful attentions to matters they acknowledged were out of their hands.

On Tuesday, the environment committee tackled the Capital Region Resource Centre, an industrial dump proposed in the east end. Er, it tackled the comments the city submits to the province, which will actually decide.

Local residents, as you might expect, are not chuffed about the dump. Committee chair David Chernushenko questions opening a landfill with a 30-year lifespan when the city's objective is to reduce and divert waste.

Coun. Stephen Blais also registered his frustration: "Despite these loud and numerous voices of dissent the project continues down the track like the out of control train ... The city has also requested the province transfer responsibility for (industrial, commercial and institutional waste) to city responsibility so that we can better manage our city-wide garbage/recycling future ... this has fallen on deaf ears."

Not even all comments got onto the record. Chernushenko noted several people had their hands up, but delegations had already been heard and he could think of no procedural way to let these citizens speak.

On Thursday, more talk without walk at the community and protective services committee, which discussed a sprawling playground at Mooney's Bay, the announcement of which had come as a surprise to the park's neighbours and the organizers of on-site events.

Where was the public input? Staff noted there had been a public consultation on Mooney's Bay — in 2000. Sixteen years later, the urgency of the impending 150th and a TV shooting schedule associated with the playground precludes obtaining fresher input.

Neither project is necessarily a mistake. The waste facility, if it helps improve our lousy diversion rates for non-residential trash, may provide payoff. The playground can be expected to blow kids' minds. You can argue for or against them, but doing so at city hall seems a waste of words.

Steve Collins lives in Ottawa. He might also be the guy behind you on the bus, pretending not to notice you're reading this. Act casual.

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Your essential daily news

Mayweather knocks out daughter's sweet 16: Drops seven figures on party, hires Drake to perform

The more you Knowles

Beyoncé's surprise visual album Lemonade has been a lightning rod for discussion since its April 23 release. The response is a credit to the complexity of the album, both musically and visually. After all, it's hard to imagine American feminist Bell Hooks writing an essay on, say, the new Ariana Grande album the way she did with Lemonade. Here, three professors who teach Beyoncé give us a crash course on Queen B. Welcome to the University of Bey. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

1 Melissa Avdeeff

Position: Sessional lecturer in the School of Music, University of Victoria

Course Name: Beyoncé

Course Description: With Beyoncé as a case study, the course looks at race, gender and sexuality in popular music.

Why B? Avdeeff, a contributor to The Beyoncé Effect, a forthcoming book of critical essays, was interested in how Beyoncé disrupts norms of gender and sexuality.

"She's a very feminine figure, a very sexual figure, but she's also very strong-willed and independent," Avdeeff says.

Life After Lemonade: Releasing Lemonade on HBO, Avdeeff says, gave the project a water-cooler cachet reminiscent of a bygone media era.

"Think back to the '50s in television," she says.

"Everyone watched the same three channels so the next day you're like, 'Hey, did you see such and such on TV?' That was an event.

"We haven't had any other cultural products that have had such extensive think pieces and discussion on this level."

2 Kevin Allred

Position: Adjunct lecturer in American studies, Rutgers University

Course Name: Politicizing Beyoncé

Course Description: This course compares and contrasts Beyoncé's music and videos with seminal work by black female writers.

Why B? Allred finds Beyoncé's music and videos contain multiple layers. He argues the theme of infidelity that runs through Lemonade, for example, is allegorical for "the promise of rights; the promise of life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness; and how that has not been the case in a lot of ways, especially for black women."

Life After Lemonade: Get in Formation indeed. Allred aligns the imagery and themes of Formation and the Formation Tour with previous pop culture "movements," such as Janet Jackson's Rhythm Nation. "It's creating a movement with the music," he says. "It's not just a tour."

3 Naila Keleta-Mae

Position: Assistant professor of theatre and performance, University of Waterloo

Course Name: Gender and Performance

Course Description: Viewing Beyoncé's 2013 self-titled visual album as a series of performances through the lens of feminist theory.

Why B? As a scholar specializing in performance, Keleta-Mae saw the music videos that accompanied Beyoncé as a unique opportunity to analyze a pop star's self-presentation. Keleta-Mae was also energized by the excerpt of writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's TEDx talk We Should All Be Feminists on the song Flawless.

"Flawless' has competing ideas, that we should all be feminists and on the other hand the refrain is 'bow down b—s,'" Keleta-Mae says. "How do we reconcile both of those within the space of a four-minute video?"

Life After Lemonade: Keleta-Mae applauds Beyoncé for making the black female experience the spine of a major pop album, but balks at critics who feel Beyoncé isn't enough of an agitator. "People want her to be more feminist, to be more radical, to be less mainstream," she says. "What's lost in all that is that she is a mainstream pop artist. Historically mainstream artists haven't been the ones to upset the mainstream. Otherwise they won't continue to occupy that position of influence and power. The expectation that she would take on the kinds of stances that aren't mainstream to me makes no sense. If Beyoncé starts speaking about radical feminism then she is not Beyoncé anymore."

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'I enjoy creating a better world'

WHY I LIKE MY JOB

Chantal Sylvestre, 23, Energy Analyst at Energy@Work Inc.

I grew up on a farm and always felt connected to nature — so it only felt right to pursue a career that benefits the environment. I attended Humber College in Toronto, where I completed a three-year advanced diploma in sustainable energy and building technology. I spent some time volunteering and networking in the areas of environment, renewable energy and green building, which eventually led to a full time position.

My job is to convey information in a meaningful way to clients. I perform analysis on utility data to identify trends and opportunities for optimizing building performance, and have also conducted energy audits within commercial spaces to measure energy consumption, recommend conservation strategies and calculate potential savings.

Being an energy analyst is similar to being a storyteller; it takes inventive skills to understand what the data is trying to tell you and how to best share it with others. I enjoy creating a better world by conserving energy. When we reduce energy consumption, we also reduce pollution and conserve water, which is pivotal for sustainability.

THE BASICS: Energy Analyst

$54,276

Median wage of energy analysts. Those with more experience can earn upwards of **$76,085** annually.

+8%

The amount of growth expected in this field over the next 8 years

Data for this feature was provided by payscale.com, statcan.gc.ca, humber.ca and onetonline.org.

HOW TO START

Many colleges offer specialized energy auditing programs, which provide hands-on, technical training in home, industrial and commercial inspections. A prospective student may also consider a diploma in sustainable energy and building technology, which places an emphasis on energy conservation, project management and sustainable building design.

WHERE YOU CAN GO

Swelling energy costs and a shift in building codes and development standards have driven the need for trained energy analysts. Canada is changing the way it distributes energy to confront environmental risks and to generate more work opportunities in green building and renewable energy projects. Government departments, construction contractors, environmental consulting companies and the Armed Forces are just a few sectors that promote and offer employment in this field.

NEXT CAREER STEP

The Energy Auditor in Training designation is an excellent preparatory vehicle for developing the technical skills needed to achieve the Certified Energy Auditor (CAE) certification. Both credentials provide fundamental knowledge on calculating energy consumption and developing conservation strategies. The internationally-recognized LEED Green Associate credential will also help establish an analyst as a serious green building professional.

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MONEY MATTERS

You can't buy your blues away

Gail Vaz-Oxlade
For Metro Canada

Ashleigh loves to complain that she doesn't have any money.

I've been trying to help her figure out where her cash is going, and how she's going to start building up an emergency fund, so that the next time she loses a shift at work she isn't thrown into a panic.

The first time I asked Ashleigh where her emergency money went, she told me that it had been a very stressful week at work.

When she walked past her favourite dress shop, she popped in to have a look to cheer herself up.

She spent $274 on a dress, a great jacket and a new scarf. She was quite proud, since the dress was 50 per cent off. She had the money in the bank. She'd just rebuild her emergency fund.

The second time Ashleigh dipped into her emergency fund, it was because she was exhausted. "I just needed some me time," she said, her eyes pleading with me to understand that it was a make-or-break thing. "I bust my ass. I deserve a spa day."

Then there was her sister's wedding. "My best friend from high school is coming to town for this. I have got to look good." In her desperate attempt to compete with a woman she rarely saw, Ashleigh blew half her savings.

Everyone enjoys the buzz of a new purchase, but if you're letting that buzz drive you to do things that will hurt you in the long run, it's time to make a change. ISTOCK

Ashleigh spends when she's stressed, when she's exhausted, when she's suffering a little dip in her self-esteem. She spends when she's happy. She spends when she's blue.

Ashleigh is an emotional spender. Are you one, too?

If you shed dollars when you're in the emotional rough, it's time to figure out what's triggering your spending. Hey, everyone enjoys the buzz of a new acquisition.

But if you're letting that buzz drive you to do things that will hurt you in the long run, you're the dog being wagged by your tail. Staying out of the stores is a good way to battle emotional spending.

Breathing alleviates stress, and it's free. So does walking, singing, watching a funny video, and myriad other stress-busters that don't involve spending money.

If you're pummeled with ads or you have an inbox full of sales from online stores, you're begging for trouble.

Nobody can face that much temptation and keep walking away. And when you're stressed or blue, your resistance is lowered so you're that much more likely to drop some money.

Get off those lists. Unsubscribe to catalogue mailings. Don't even open the email offers. Just move 'em to your junk file.

I'm not saying you can't ever impulsively get an ice cream. Just don't make that impulsive response your bridge over an emotional gully. If buying is how you fix your bad moods, you're getting into a disastrous habit.

For more money advice, visit Gail's website at gailvazoxlade.com

Festive Montreal

When it comes to party towns, this big Quebec city knows how to have a good time. Yes, it's the home of the Montreal Canadiens, but it is also where so many festivals and other events happen.

CONTRIBUTED

Fully enjoy summer

First stop: **Les Jardins Gamelin**. All summer long, this completely revamped park, nestled in Place Émilie-Gamelin at the street of corner of Sainte-Catherine and Berri, transforms into a welcoming outdoor venue with picnic tables, gardens and snack bars.

Janet Echelman's 1.26 Montreal

Each day, this suspended net forms a swirl of colours and light in the nighttime sky as videos are projected onto neighbouring buildings.

Montréal complètement cirque – Fracas

(July 7 to 17, 7 and 10 p.m.; on break July 11)

As this circus festival tours the city of Montreal, Les Jardins Gamelin will host acrobats and trapeze artists descending from the sky or emerging from the crowd for a totally immersive 30-minute experience.

A well-kept secret

Village Au-Pied-du-Courant (June 2 to Sept. 23)

Facing the river and below the Jacques-Cartier Bridge, this boardwalk village, formerly a snow dump site, lets you enjoy a drink or a snack on the playfully furnished sandy beach, catch an evening concert and even shop for arts and crafts.

All culture, all the time

Montreal is shaped and defined by its artists. In the summer, the cultural offerings spill outdoors and take over public spaces thanks to a variety of high-profile events.

Mural Festival (June 9 to 19)

For 11 days, Saint-Laurent Boulevard is taken over by the city's artistic community. Watch murals on buildings unfold in real time, attend live concerts and take in open-air exhibits. Also, take one of the many guided tours to learn about past editions of the festival.

CONTRIBUTED

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Transit

Avoid the stress of driving to Montreal and take the train instead. Why deal with streets that are shut down or only open to pedestrians during festival season, when you can simply enjoy a comfortable train ride? Trips offer free Wi-Fi and friendly service all the way to Central Station in the heart of downtown. From there, you can choose from among many public transit options, or use the city's popular bike sharing service, Bixi, to get around.

Next stop

Don't miss VIA Rail's next urban getaway in the June 6 Metro issue. All aboard for Quebec City: get recommendations for things to do and places to see.

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When moving in together isn't ideal

RELATIONSHIPS

'Apartners' are couples who choose not to live together

Sofi Papamarko
Torstar News Service

Tim Burton and Helena Bonham-Carter were famously rumoured to have lived in separate but adjoining houses throughout their marriage. Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn had an intense relationship for 26 years but never lived under the same roof. Celebrities: they're just like us!

Close to two million Canadians were in Living Apart Together (LAT) arrangements in 2011, according to Statistics Canada. That is, they were in a relationship without living together. Among them was Paige Dzenis, 32, who lived separately from her then-boyfriend and now-husband for nine years before they moved in together after officially tying the knot. The couple lived separately in the same Toronto neighbourhood.

"I loved my apartment," Dzenis recalls. "I loved my neighbours and my landlord and the street I lived on — it was very hard to give it all up when the time came (to move in together). I'm also a bit of an introvert, so I enjoyed having my own space where I could sink into the couch and watch TV and play with my phone and not talk or move for hours on end with no judgment."

As someone untidy ("creative!") who eats cereal for non-breakfast meals with alarming frequency, I can confidently state that I too am familiar with the appeal of solo living.

"Living apart gives the benefit of creating mental space for both partners to breathe and think independently, and to make educated decisions about the relationship as a whole," says Dr. Kimberly Moffit, a Toronto-based relationship expert.

> **It was very hard to give it all up.**
> Paige Dzenis

"Living apart can be great for couples who are fiercely career-oriented and early in their careers, while they are establishing themselves."

But many adults who live apart together are already well established in their careers — even retired — and they know that their romantic partnership is built to last. They simply choose to exist in their own separate spaces.

Sharon Hyman and her partner David live apart. She enjoys solitude and feels that spending time apart actually brings them closer together.

"Just because you love someone does not mean you necessarily want to share a home with them," says the 53-year-old filmmaker, who is making a documentary on the subject. "In my mind, sharing emotional space does not mean you have to share physical space."

Hyman explains that many people are puzzled by her choice to live apart from her romantic partner, but different people have different needs. Just because they don't live together (and never plan on living together) doesn't mean their partnership is any less valid.

Sharon Hyman is working on a new documentary called "Apartners" about couples who intentionally live apart, like she and her partner David do. COURTESY PAZIT PEREZ

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Scouts juggling playoff duties, draft preparation

RAPTORS
POST-SEASON RUN

Playing deep into May has created hiccup for Ujiri & Co.

It has been a long grind for the Toronto Raptors, unprecedented and wild, intense and all-consuming.

It has been fun, the ups and downs and emotions of a run to the NBA Eastern Conference final well worth it, all things considered.

But for a faction of the organization, it has been a difficult process to get a grip on because it's cutting into what would normally be a period of laser-like focus on the future instead of the now.

The NBA draft — the bread and butter time of the season for Toronto's front office and scouting staffs — is just more than a month away and the clock is already ticking on choices for the No. 9 and No. 27 selections the team has.

It has presented president and general manager Masai Ujiri with a challenge he's never had to deal with before.

"It's a great problem to have, trust me," Ujiri said as the conference final against the Cleveland Cavaliers unfolds. "It's a very unique one because it's my first time being a part of this and it's very cool."

The last time the Raptors picked ninth in the draft was in 2009 when they selected DeMar DeRozan. TOM SZCZERBOWSKI/GETTY IMAGES

To figure it all out, Ujiri has done what any smart manager would do. He has picked the brains of colleagues who are used to balancing a long playoff run with draft preparation and taken the best advice from a variety of sources.

"We were shuttling back and forth to Chicago (and the NBA's draft combine earlier this month) and I had to call R.C. (Buford, the San Antonio general manager) and I called a couple of other guys who are used to it to find out how you do it because there's Europe, there's workout, there's talking to agents and all that stuff going on and you have to figure out a way."

Ujiri, executive vice-president Jeff Weltman, director of player personnel Dan Tolzman and the team's scouts have had to find time here and there wherever they can to talk about the possibilities for the draft picks.

They have yet to be able to schedule the group workouts they would normally have in Toronto at this time, so they do what they can where they can.

"You want to play longer and all this stuff is going on, before you know it, the draft is here and free agency is here," Ujiri said.

"We are preparing and we have a lot of our meetings on the road during the playoffs. A lot of our scouts are with us and we do a lot of discussion there.

"You just have to keep figuring out the grind, that's the nature of what we do."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

I think this is a good, good asset for our organization and something else to add to what we already have.
Masai Ujiri on the No. 9 pick

Go to metronews.ca for coverage of Raptors-Cavaliers Game 4.

NHL PLAYOFFS

Big-game assassin, Nikita

The bigger the playoff moment, the more Nikita Kucherov shines.

The young Russian has a knack for scoring when Tampa Bay needs it most, which is one of the reasons the Lightning are within one victory of reaching the Stanley Cup final for the second straight year.

Kucherov has found the back of the net an NHL-leading 11 times in 15 games this post-season, seven of them in situations in which he's either tied the score or given his team a lead.

The 22-year-old's latest addition to his impressive playoff resumé he began compiling last year was a late goal Sunday to force overtime against Pittsburgh in Game 5 of the Eastern Conference final. He also notched an assist on Tyler Johnson's game-winner.

The 4-3 victory on the road gave Tampa Bay a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven series. Game 6 is Tuesday night in Tampa, Fla.

"When you're a rising star in this league, as he is ... every team's got one of those guys at some point," Lightning coach Jon Cooper said. "It just seems the bigger the moment, the bigger they rise to the occasion. He is proving that last year wasn't a fluke." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SNIPER

Between these playoffs and the 2015 post-season, Kucherov has 21 goals.

United let Van Gaal walk

SOCCER

FA Cup victory not enough to save Dutchman

Replacing Alex Ferguson is proving harder than Manchester United ever could have imagined.

United is looking for its third manager since Ferguson's trophy-laden 26-year dynasty ended in 2013 after firing Louis van Gaal on Monday following months of uncertainty around his position.

Jose Mourinho is set to take over at Old Trafford as the latest coach attempting to revive the fortunes of England's biggest club.

It was beyond David Moyes, who lasted 10 months as Ferguson's hand-picked successor, and now Van Gaal has departed after two underwhelming years when he oversaw more than $350 million of spending on new players.

Louis van Gaal
GETTY IMAGES

"I am very disappointed to be unable to complete our intended three-year plan," Van Gaal said. "I believe that the foundations are firmly in place to enable the club to move forward and achieve even greater success."

United, the record 20-time English champion, said its "decision on a successor as manager will be announced soon" while giving no names.

Delivering United's first trophy — an FA Cup on Saturday — since Ferguson's retirement was not enough to save Van Gaal. He paid the price for failing to qualify United for next season's Champions League.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

McDavid picks golden moment to strike

Connor McDavid's first goal of the world hockey championship proved to be golden. The defence and goaltending did the rest.

McDavid's goal in the first period stood as the winner, backing a 16-save shutout from Cam Talbot as Canada successfully defended its world championship title with a 2-0 win over Finland in the tournament final on Sunday in Moscow.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Darvish set to start Saturday

Yu Darvish is line to make his first start Saturday for the Texas Rangers in nearly 22 months since having Tommy John surgery.

Darvish is expected to start for the Rangers in Saturday night's home game against Pittsburgh after five rehab outings this month.

Manager Jeff Banister said Monday that Darvish will start the middle game of that interleague series if he feels good.

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RECIPE Corn and Black Bean Cous Cous Salad

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

A hearty salad on its own or top it with grilled chicken for a quick and easy dish.

Ready in
Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes

Ingredients
- 1 package couscous
- 4 ears of corn, boiled
- 1 red bell pepper, cored, seeded and diced
- 1 can organic black beans, rinsed and drained
- ½ cup finely chopped red onion
- 1 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 1/3 cup cilantro, finely chopped

Dressing
- 1 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 2 tablespoons rice wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

Directions

1. Cook couscous according to package directions. Bring a large pot of salted water to boil. Drop in corn. Allow to cook for 3 minutes, or until corn is tender. Remove from water and allow to cool. Cut corn kernals from cob.

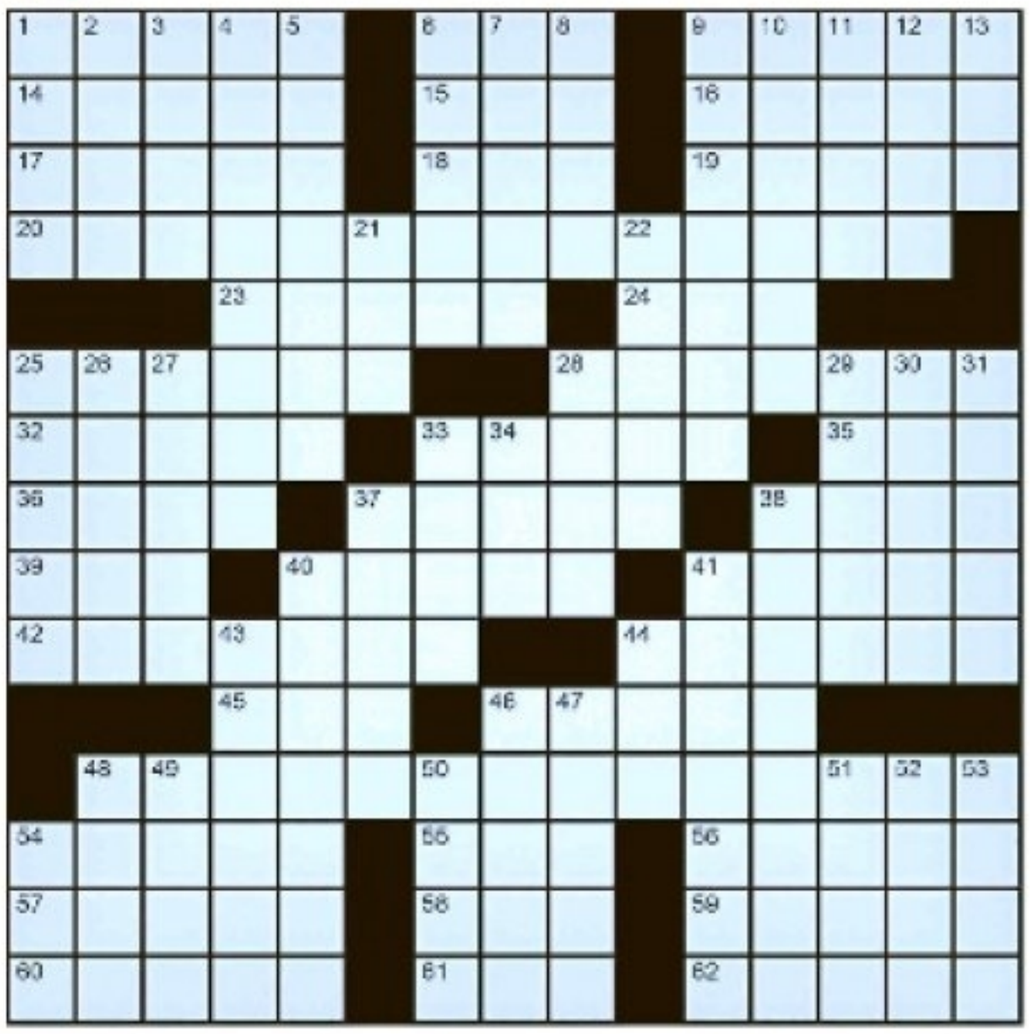
2. Pour couscous into a larg mixing bowl and stir in corn, black beans, red bell pepper and feta. In a small bowl, whisk the olive oil, rice wine vinegar, lime juice and honey. Sprinkle in the salt and stir.

3. Pour dressing over salad and mix to coat cous cous. Stir in cilantro. Serve immediately or chill for one hour and serve cold.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Grates
6. "How naughty!"
9. Connivers
14. Basketball great Mr. Thomas
15. Sushi tuna
16. Montreal Olympics legend Ms. Comaneci
17. Motor scooters name
18. Aperitif, __ Royale
19. __ Dinner (Canadian food favourite)
20. 'Branta canadensis' for the Canada Goose: 2 wds.
23. Cheerful
24. Amazed reaction!
25. Wedding reception drinks offering: 2 wds.
28. Disney movie musical of 1992 starring Christian Bale
32. Neighbourhoods
33. Anthony of "The Guns of Navarone" (1961)
35. Make long grass short
36. "The __ Show" (Chuck Barris hosted 1970s show)
37. Scottish poet Robert
38. Shell
39. Star of ABC sitcom "Modern Family", __'Neill
40. The Power of Positive Thinking author, Norman Vincent __ (b.1898 - d. 1993)
41. Humphrey Bogart's nickname
42. __ populated (Like a large city)
44. __ contest (Show like #36-Across)
45. Mr. Linden
46. Domicile
48. Canadian standup comedian who famously appeared on #36-Across as his alter ego at #9-Down: 2 wds.
54. Dog: Latin
55. Cook's crack-ee
56. Wed, Vegas-style
57. Acid kind
58. Travel delay
59. More unique
60. Eucharist
61. Pastureland
62. Swashbuckler's prop

DOWN
1. Yukon's Porcupine, et al.
2. "Gimme _ _..." (Hold on...)
3. Yes x 2, in Madrid
4. Disguise worn by #9-Down: 2 wds.
5. Canadian singer Ms. Twain's
6. "_' Care of Business" by BTO
7. Worker's time to work
8. Opera's Dame _ Te Kanawa
9. As per #48-Across... The _ Comic
10. Canadian songstress Ms. McLachlan
11. Cheese variety
12. Abundant
13. Weekend day, wee-ly
21. Road's coat
22. Joel and Ethan of Hollywood
25. _ war (Battled)
26. Eat away
27. Mortise and _ (Carpentry joint)
28. Fourteen - five = What?
29. Picture
30. Reddish-rose dye
31. Sugary
33. Wharf
34. WWW address
37. Edward's beloved in 'Twilight' movies
38. Restaurant dish go-with: 2 wds.
40. Toronto's big airport
41. Pesters
43. Vigil vicinity
44. Unit of weight ...US-style
46. Pool nuisance
47. Like oversized clothing
48. Papa's wife
49. Segment
50. Holler!
51. Matador's victim
52. Secret agent, for short
53. "Happy Days" geek
54. Hat

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
In the next three weeks, you will notice more beauty in your surroundings. In addition, you will be aware of how much love there is in your daily world.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Look for ways to boost your income in the next few weeks, because you can do this. You will want to buy beautiful things for yourself and for loved ones.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Today Fair Venus moves into your sign to stay for the next three weeks. This means this is perhaps the best time of the year for you to buy wardrobe goodies.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Clandestine love affairs and secret rendezvous will take place for many of you in the next few weeks. (Don't threaten a long-term relationship with a mere bonbon.)

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Friendships will warm up in the next few weeks. In fact, many of you will attract creative, artistic people to you. Expect a lovely, social time ahead.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
In the next few weeks, someone will ask for your creative input on form, design, layout, gardening, furniture arrangement — whatever. Relations with authority figures will be cozy as well.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Travel for pleasure will appeal to you in the month ahead. Grab every chance you can to expand your world and enjoy museums and the creative art of other cultures.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Keep your pockets open, because gifts, goodies and money from others will come your way in the next several weeks. Don't ask questions. Just say, "Thank you!"

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Venus opposite your sign for the next few weeks is one of the best times for warm friendships, marriages and close partnerships. Venus paves the way for a lovely give and take.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Praise, a raise and improved relations with co-workers will please you in the next few weeks. Even your health will feel improved.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Romance, love affairs, vacations, fun times at sports events and playful activities with children are tops on the menu for you in the next month. Aquarians are ready to play.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You will love to redecorate your digs in the next several weeks. However, this is also a good time for real-estate possibilities and entertaining at home.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

9		2		4		5	3	8
5	8						2	
7				8				4
			7		3			
2		1				3		9
			9		5			
8				3				1
	6						9	3
4	7	3		5		2		6

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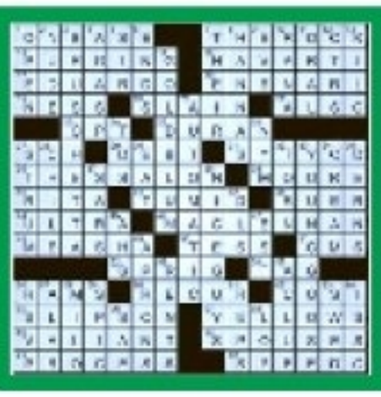
FRIDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games



9	4	3	6	2	5	1	8	7
5	2	1	7	8	4	9	3	6
6	8	7	9	3	1	2	4	5
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2	9	8	3	7	6	4	5	1
7	3	4	5	1	9	8	6	2
8	7	9	4	6	2	5	1	3
3	1	5	8	9	7	6	2	4
4	6	2	1	5	3	7	9	8

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